GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1202
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2002
MOVE TO JOIN UPOV
SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Move to join UPOV will affect farmer`s rights` as reported in the `Hindu` dated June 7, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the decision of the Union Government has been widely criticized bythe eminent researchers in the field of agriculture;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to reconsider its decision; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): `Gene Campaign`, a non-governmental organization, has criticized the proposal to accede to the UPOV Convention, 1978 Act.

(c) & (d): Joining UPOV would be in the interest of our farmers as this would, interalia, facilitate greater investment in research for the development of new plant varieties in order to ensure the availability of quality seeds to farmers; obviate the need to enter into a large number of bilateral agreements with other countries for mutual recognition of plant breeders` rights; enable Indian plant breeders to secure protection in all Convention countries with minimal formalities and costs, etc.